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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|

09/623,780

09/08/2000

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450101-02221

7982

20999 7590 07/30/2009  
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EXAMINER

RAMAN, USHA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2424

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/30/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

|                              |                                      |  |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>09/623,780 | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>FUKUZAWA ET AL. |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>USHA RAMAN        | <b>Art Unit</b><br>2424                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 May 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7,9-12 and 14-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7,9-12 and 14-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

**DETAILED OFFICE ACTION**

***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 7 and 12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 7,8-12 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 7 and 12 recites the limitation "wherein the first memory section is utilized for the first transmission path and the second section is utilized for *the second transmission path*, wherein the switching circuit alternately outputs the NIT tabled stored the first memory section and the second memory section". This appears to be inconsistent with applicant's disclosure, which states that the NIT of the next transmission path is stored in the first and second memory section, such that while NIT data is being stored in one section, NIT data stored in the second section is read, and vice versa (see Specification, page 24, lines 7-10 and lines 17- page 25, line 8). As best understood by the examiner, the first memory section and second memory section correspond to SRAM 454A and 454B and as best

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understood in light of the disclosure both the first memory section and second are utilized for the first transmission path.

Claims 8-11 and 14-16 are rendered indefinite due to their dependence on indefinite claims 7 and 12 respectively.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 7, 9-12 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over LaJoie (US PG Pub. 2005/0015804) in view of ETS 300 468 "Specification for service information (SI) in Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB) Systems" Second Edition published in January 1997.

With regards to claims 7 and 12, LaJoie discloses a method of transmitting digital services received from one delivery network (satellite transmission), demodulating the received satellite signals, editing the signal to remove streams that are not going to be re-broadcast, modulating the signals according to the cable delivery network modulation scheme and transmitting over the cable network. See [0071].

While LaJoie teaches the step of not retransmitting certain services or "unwanted" programs, LaJoie is silent on the steps of replacing network information

means prior to transmitting the data to a cable delivery network and deleting the service identifiers of network information that are not retransmitted and adding placeholder data for the deleted service identifiers, the service list descriptors for services repeated in the new transmission in the cable delivery network in accordance with the TS description length.

ETS 300 468 standard (henceforth referred to as “DVB specification” as set forth by the ETSI, further incorporating the contents (see page 4) of ETR 211, “DVB guidelines for Implementation and usage of Service Information” (henceforth referred to as “DVB guidelines”), set forth transition guidelines at delivery media boundaries. The guideline discloses replacement NIT packets and therefore shows the step of network information replacement with the information for the cable transmission path. See DVB guidelines: clauses 4.1.1 and 5.3. Furthermore, the DVB specification discloses that the NIT comprises a `delivery_system_descriptor` for each of the delivery systems, namely a `cable_delivery_system_descriptor` and a `satellite_delivery_system_descriptor` for the cable and satellite systems respectively. See clauses 6.2.6 in DVB Specification,. The cable/satellite delivery system descriptors are transmitted in the second descriptor loop of the NIT (see DVB guidelines, 4.2.1.2.1). The NIT also specifies `transport_descriptors_length` field, wherein the field specifies the, ‘total length in bytes of Transport Stream descriptors that follow’ (see DVB specification, pages 16-17). Therefore, the delivery system descriptors are set in accordance with the transport stream descriptor length set forth in the `transport_descriptors_length` field. Furthermore, it is also noted that the

NIT is a table indicating physical information of a transmission path, wherein the NIT is contained in the broadcasting signal (see page 16, DVB specification), and distinguished by a unique PID (as specified by table 1 of DVB specification).

The DVB specification further discloses wherein the table is segmented into a plurality of sections with a same format (see page 16, "The NIT shall be segmented into network\_information\_sections using syntax of Table 3"), each section having a section indicator (section\_number) and a last section indicator (last\_section\_indicator), see page 17.

The DVB specification further discloses the step of transmitting stuffing\_descriptor (i.e. placeholder data) for invalidating previously coded descriptors and therefore teaches the step of replacing service identifiers using placeholder (and therefore deleting service identifiers) when the services are no longer valid (i.e. services that are not re-transmitted). See DVB specification, clause 6.2.25. The stuffing\_byte is situated in a *for\_loop*, clearly indicating a *repetition* of the stuffing\_byte field N times, wherein "*each occurrence* of the [stuffing byte] maybe set to any value". See DVB specification, 6.2.25. Furthermore, the descriptor\_length field preceding the aforementioned *for\_loop* indicates "the total number of bytes of the data portion of the descriptor following" (see DVB specification, page 27), further supporting that length of the stuffing descriptor can vary according to the size of the descriptors that need to be invalidated. Therefore the DVB documents teach the limitations of adding placeholder data having the same length of the deleted service identifiers.

The DVB guidelines further discloses that transmitting a service list descriptor corresponding to a transport stream identifiers, wherein the service list descriptor contains a list of services transmitted (including repeated services) in a new delivery system (see DVB Guidelines, fig. 2, 4.2.1.2.2 and DVB specification, table 51), wherein the service list descriptor is transmitted in accordance with the length of a transport stream. The DVB guidelines accordingly teaches that the service list descriptors to be re-transmitted are appended to the transport stream identifier in accordance with length of the transport stream descriptor.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the teachings set forth by the DVB specification for transition between delivery system boundaries in the system of LaJoie so that the receiver at the new delivery information can correctly identify and decode services.

As noted above, the DVB specification and Implementation Guidelines both disclose the step of selectively replacing portions of the NIT at network boundaries with information pertinent to for re-broadcasting to the new network. This includes replacement of the delivery descriptors as well as modifying the service identifiers and service list descriptors for the new network. Such selective replacement necessitates that data to be replaced be held in buffer so that it can be parsed to identify portions that need to be replaced and also necessitates buffering of the replacement data so that the identified parsed data can be selectively replaced. Accordingly the modified system necessarily comprises a memory means to perform the selective replacement. The DVB guidelines further notes that while NIT for the

actual transport streams is mandatory, NIT for other transport streams may also be transmitted (i.e. satellites belonging to different networks). Therefore in the event NIT for the other transport stream are transmitted in addition to the NIT for the actual transport stream from the old (second) delivery system, similar parsing and replacement steps would be required for selectively replacing portions of NIT corresponding to the other transport stream for delivery of pertinent services in the new delivery system, thereby necessitating buffering of NIT of other transport streams. Accordingly it would have been further obvious to buffer the NIT of other transport stream in the memory means in order to perform selective replacement of packets so that they carry delivery system information and service information pertaining to the new delivery system, wherein the NIT for the actual transport stream would be buffered as a separate table than the NIT for the other transport stream, and therefore be stored in different locations in the memory means.

While the selective parsing and replacement of data necessitates a memory means, the DVB specification and LaJoie are silent on the memory means having a first memory section and a second memory section being coupled with a first terminal and a second terminal of a switching means respectively, wherein the first and second memory section are utilized for the first transmission path wherein the switching circuit alternately outputs the NIT table stored in the first memory section and second memory section every transport packet by switching between the first terminal and the second terminal.



In a further related art, Sumi discloses a memory device comprising a first memory section (20a) and a second memory section (20b) being coupled with a first terminal and a second terminal of a switching circuit (35) wherein the switching circuit outputs the data stored in the one memory section while storing data in the other memory section and alternates the operation to output data from the other memory while storing data in the first memory section. See fig. 4 and col. 5 lines 28-30, 36-40, 43-55 and col. 6 lines 5-9. This is also commonly known in the art as "ping-pong" buffering wherein read and write operations are alternated between two buffers thereby outputting blocks without any gaps or delays.

Accordingly it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to further modify the system in view of a memory device as taught by Sumi so that a "ping-pong" type buffer can be implemented for minimizing any gaps or delays in outputting the replacement data, thereby minimizing the overall processing delay.

In regards to claims 9 and 14, LaJoie discloses that a satellite decoder demodulates the QPSK signals modulated from the second network transmission path and data packets. Note LaJoie [0071]. Upon receiving and decoding a transport stream, the NIT is extracted at the receiving site in order compare the network id of a transport stream to identify the delivery network. If it is found that the network id of the received transport stream does not match with the network id of the receiver, the network id must be replaced for subsequent delivery over a second network. The extracted packets are then packetized (converted) into a compliant system standard for subsequent delivery in the second network. Furthermore, the

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DVB guidelines discloses that the extracted network identification information is replaced with that of the new network. Note clause 5.3.2 in page 37 of the DVB guidelines.

In regards to claims 10 and 15, as discussed above for claims 7 and 12, the modified system comprises a cable television network as the first transmission path and a satellite broadcasting network as the second transmission path. See LaJoie [0071].

In regards to claims 11 and 16, the DVB guidelines discloses that a can digital receive transport streams from an arbitrary network, extract the network information to determine the delivery network id and convert it to a format compliant with the network to be delivered to, replace the network id with the information of the network to be delivered to. In the case of the modified system, the arbitrary network is any satellite network and the network to be delivered to is the cable network. The DVB guidelines further discloses that a transport stream from an arbitrary network has to have a NIT (designated by the tables listed under DVB mandatory in figure 1) identifying the actual transport stream, however it may also have NIT concerning with another transport stream (designated by tables under DVB for optional transport streams) of another network (i.e. another satellite, cable or terrestrial network). Note clause 1 in page 7 and figure 1 of DVB guidelines in page 10. When two such networks are identified in the new network, the new network replaces the network information of both the networks with the network information of the new network in

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the same manner as above. Note the last paragraph in page 11 of the DVB guidelines.

### ***Conclusion***

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to USHA RAMAN whose telephone number is (571)272-7380. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Kelley can be reached on (571) 272-7331. The

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fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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